

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Restriction Requirement

The Office considered the claims of the present application under 35 USC 121 and 372 to be directed to two patentably distinct inventions. Specifically, the Examiner required election of a single invention, wherein the first invention would be drawn to an apparatus comprising a divided wall column and a differential pressure cell (Group I, claims 1-10), while the second invention would be drawn to methods of measuring a concentration of a component using a differential pressure cell (Group II, claims 11-20). The applicant respectfully disagrees with the examiner's characterization of the allegedly distinct inventions. Rule 13.2 expressly states that:

"…Where a group of inventions is claimed in one and the same international application, the *requirement of unity* of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 *shall be fulfilled* only when there is a *technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features*. The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a *contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art…*"(emphasis added).

In the instant case, the technical relationship among the two groups is use of a differential vapor pressure cell in a divided wall column, which has neither been taught nor suggested in the art. Therefore, the restriction is improper.

Nevertheless, the applicant **elects without traverse** Group II, reading on claims 11-20. Claims 1-10 were withdrawn without prejudice.

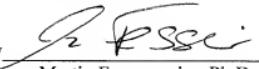
Request For Allowance

Claims 11-20 are pending in this application, with claims 1-10 being withdrawn. The applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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